

# OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

*Edited by*

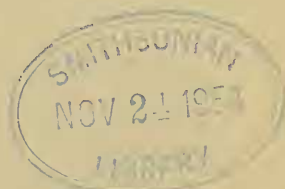
**FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.**

**Secretary to the Commission**

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## **OPINION 304**

Suppression, under the Plenary Powers, of five early generic names for Ammonites (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea) now fallen into desuetude



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# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

## COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 304

### A. The Officers of the Commission

*Honorary Life President* : Dr. Karl Jordan (*British Museum (Natural History), Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts., England*).

*President* : (Vacant)

*Vice-President* : Senhor Dr. Afranio do Amaral (*Sao Paulo, Brazil*).

*Secretary* : Mr. Francis Hemming (*London, England*).

### B. The Members of the Commission

(*arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology*).

Senhor Dr. Afranio do AMARAL (*S. Paulo, Brazil*) (*Vice-President*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. R. DYMOND (*University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada*) (1st January 1944).

Professor J. Chester BRADLEY (*Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (28th March 1944).

Professor Harold E. VOKES (*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.*) (23rd April 1944).

Dr. William Thomas CALMAN (*Coulsdon, Surrey, England*) (1st January 1947).

Professor Béla HANKÓ (*Békéscsaba, Hungary*) (1st January 1947).

Dr. Norman R. STOLL (*Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, New York, N.Y., U.S.A.*) (1st January 1947).

Professor H. BOSCHMA (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) (1st January 1947).

Senor Dr. Angel CABRERA (*Eva Peron, F.C.N.G.R., Argentina*) (27th July 1948).

Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (*Secretary*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Joseph PEARSON (*Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia*) (27th July 1948).

Dr. Henning LEMCHE (*Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark*) (27th July 1948).

Professor Teiso ESAKI (*Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan*) (17th April 1950).

Professor Pierre BONNET (*Université de Toulouse, France*) (9th June 1950).

Mr. Norman Denbigh RILEY (*British Museum (Natural History), London*) (9th June 1950).

Professor Tadeusz JACZEWSKI (*Department of Systematic Zoology, Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland*) (15th June 1950).

Professor Robert MERTENS (*Natur-Museum u. Forschungs-Institut Senckenberg, Frankfurt a. M., Germany*) (5th July 1950).

Professor Erich Martin HERING (*Zoologisches Museum der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany*) (5th July 1950).

## OPINION 304

### SUPPRESSION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, OF FIVE EARLY GENERIC NAMES FOR AMMONITES (CLASS CEPHALOPODA, ORDER AMMONOIDEA) NOW FALLEN INTO DESUETUDE

**RULING :—**(1) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy :—  
(a) *Planulites* Lamarck, 1801 ; (b) *Orbulites* Lamarck, 1801 ; (c) *Pelagus* Montfort, 1808 ; (d) *Ellipsolithes* Montfort, 1808 ; (e) *Globites* de Haan, 1825.

(2) The under-mentioned generic names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 747 and 748 respectively :—(a) *Hildoceras* Hyatt, 1867 (gender : neuter) (type species, by selection by Buckman (S.) (1889) : *Ammonites bifrons* Bruguière, 1789) ; (b) *Phylloceras* Suess, 1865 (gender : neuter) (type species, by original designation : *Ammonites heterophyllus* Sowerby (J.), 1820)

(3) The under-mentioned specific names are hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 167 and 168 respectively : (a) *heterophyllus* Sowerby (J.), 1820, as published in the combination *Ammonites heterophyllus* (specific name of type species of *Phylloceras* Suess, 1865) ; (b) *bifrons* Bruguière, 1789, as published in the combination *Ammonites bifrons* (specific name of type species of *Hildoceras* Hyatt, 1867).

(4) The five generic names specified in (1) above and as there suppressed under the Plenary Powers are hereby placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* as Names Nos. 152 to 156 respectively.

## I.—THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 28th February 1949 Dr. W. J. Arkell (*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*) submitted applications (a) for the suppression of certain early generic names for ammonites which had fallen into desuetude, and (b) for the validation of the generic name *Phylloceras* Suess, 1865. These applications were closely connected with one another, for it was the existence of three of the disused generic names referred to in proposal (a) which made it necessary to invite the Commission to use its Plenary Powers, if the generic name *Phylloceras* Suess was to be preserved. Accordingly, it was decided at a later stage to combine these two applications. The terms of this revised application were settled on 2nd October 1950. The application so submitted was as follows :—

**Application for the suppression under the Plenary Powers of five early generic names now fallen into desuetude published for Ammonites (Class Cephalopoda, Order Ammonoidea)**

By W. J. ARKELL, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.  
(*Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge University, Cambridge*)

1. The following generic names have ceased to be used for genera of Ammonites for at least a century, but recent attempts to revive some of them by the selection of type species has shown that they constitute a menace to ammonite nomenclature and classification :—

*Planulites* Lamarck, 1801, *Syst. Anim. sans Vertèbr.* : 101.

*Orbulites* Lamarck, 1801, *ibid.* : 100.

*Pelagus* Montfort, 1808, *Conch. syst.* 1 : 62.

*Ellipsolithes* Montfort, 1808, *ibid.* 1 : 86.

*Globites* de Haan, 1825, *Specimen philosophicum exhibens Monographiam Ammoniteorum et Goniatiteorum*: 37. (The same work was published later in 1825 under the title : *Monographiae Ammoniteorum et Goniatiteorum Specimen*).

2. *Planulites* Lamarck, 1801. In 1923 Buckman (pl. cccxciii) revived this name and reproduced Bourget's figure cited by Lamarck. It is unrecognizable, but might be a *Hildoceras*. If so, it invalidates the long-established genus *Hildoceras* Hyatt, 1867, and the family HILDOCERATIDAE Hyatt, 1867, in universal use.

3. *Orbulites*, *Pelagus*, *Globites*. It is uncertain whether some of these names correctly apply to ammonites or foraminifera, but

Breistroffer (1947 : 81—82) has recently stated that at least the first two, and the third *pro parte*, invalidate *Phylloceras* Suess, 1865, one of the most important ammonite genera and the type genus of the family PHYLLOCERATIDAE Zittel, 1884.

4. *Ellipsolites* Montfort, 1808. According to Fischer (1882 : 395) this is a synonym of *Perisphinctes* Waagen, 1869, another of the most important ammonite genera, and the type genus of the family PERISPINCTIDAE Steinmann, 1890.

6. I accordingly request the International Commission to use its Plenary Powers to suppress the five generic names specified in the first paragraph of the present application on the ground that their re-introduction at the present time would lead to serious confusion and would serve no useful purpose whatever. I further ask that, when these names are suppressed, they be placed on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology*.

7. Further, since the object of the present application is to protect, from attack by the long forgotten names now proposed to be suppressed, the important generic names *Hildoceras* Hyatt, 1867, *Phylloceras* Suess, 1865, and *Perisphinctes* Waagen, 1869, I recommend that the two first of these names should at once be placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* and that the trivial names of their respective type species should at the same time be placed on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*. I do not make an immediate similar recommendation in the case of the name *Perisphinctes* Waagen, for in this case there is a further difficulty in regard to its type species, on which I have submitted a separate proposal to the International Commission (file Z.N.(S.)445).<sup>1</sup> My immediate proposals for additions to the *Official Lists* are therefore as follows :—

(1) *Names proposed to be added to the “Official List of Generic Names in Zoology”.*

*Hildoceras* Hyatt, 1867, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.* 1(5) : 99 (type species, by subsequent selection, by Buckman (S.), 1889 (*Monogr. Inferior Oolite Ammonites* (Pal. Soc.) : 111) : *Ammonites bifrons* Bruguière, 1789, *Ency. méth.* (Vers) (1) : 40) (gender of generic name : neuter).

*Phylloceras* Suess, 1865, *SitzBer. Akad. Wiss. Wien* 52(1) : 76 (type species, by original designation : *Ammonites heterophyllus* Sowerby (J.), 1820, *Min. Conch.* 3 : 119) (gender of generic name : neuter).

<sup>1</sup> See Opinion 303, 1954, *Ops. Decls. int. Comm. zool. Nomencl.* 8 : 273—284.



- (2) *Names proposed to be added to the " Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology "*.

*heterophyllus* Sowerby (J.), 1820, as published in the binominal combination *Ammonites heterophyllus* :

*bifrons* Bruguière, 1789, as published in the binominal combination *Ammonites bifrons*.

#### References

BREISTROFFER, M., 1947, *Trav. Lab. Géol. Univ. Grenoble*, **26** : 1.

BUCKMAN, S. S., 1923, *Type Ammonites*, **4**.

FISCHER, P., 1882, *Manuel de Conchyliologie*.

HYATT, A., 1867, The fossil Cephalopods of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.*, Harvard, **3**, No. 5.

———, 1900, Eastman's Zittel, *Text-book of Palaeontology*, 1st ed.

## II.—THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. *Registration of the present application*: On the receipt of Dr. Arkell's preliminary communication of 28th February 1949, the problem presented by the generic name *Phylloceras* Suess, was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)404. The problem presented by the five early generic names for *Ammonites* which had fallen into desuetude then brought to notice was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)423. Later (as has been explained in paragraph 1 above), it was decided that, owing to the inter-connection between these two cases, it would be more convenient to treat them as constituting a single application. The File Z.N.(S.)404 was thereupon closed and the combined application was dealt with under the Number Z.N.(S.)423.

3. *Publication of the present application*: As soon as practicable after the present application had been finally settled in October 1950, it was sent to the printer and it was published on 4th May 1951 in Triple-Part 6/8 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Arkell, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **2** : 198—199).

4. *Issue of Public Notices*: Under the revised arrangements approved by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 4th May 1951, both in Triple-Part 6/8 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, the Part in which Dr. Arkell's application was published, and also to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, Notice was given to certain palaeontological serial publications in Europe and America. The publication of these Notices elicited no objection to the action proposed.

5. *Support received for the present application*: Support for the present application was received from the following specialists :— (a) Mr. C. W. Wright (*London*) ; (b) Mr. R. Casey (*Geological Survey and Museum, London*) ; (c) Dr. Helmut Hölder (*Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut der Universität Tübingen, Germany*) ; (d) The Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America. The communications so received are given in the immediately following paragraphs.

6. *Support received from Mr. C. W. Wright (London)*: On 17th July 1951 Mr. C. W. Wright (*London*) submitted the following letter in support of the present application (Wright, 1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 337) :—

As a worker in Cretaceous ammonites, I am writing to support strongly Dr. W. J. Arkell's application (1951, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 2 : 198—199) for the suppression of the five early names of ammonite genera, *Planulites* and *Orbulites* Lamarck, 1801, *Pelagus* and *Ellipsolites* Montfort, 1808, and *Globites* de Haan, 1825. As he says, these names constitute a menace to ammonite nomenclature and that menace should be removed.

7. *Support received from Mr. R. Casey (Geological Survey and Museum, London)*: On 5th October 1951 Mr. R. Casey (*Geological Survey and Museum, London*) included the following note of support for the present application in a letter which was, in part, concerned with other cases (Casey, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 212) :—

The disturbance in current ammonite nomenclature which would result from the resuscitation of the early generic names *Planulites* and *Orbulites* Lamarck, 1801, *Pelagus* and *Ellipsolites* Montfort, 1808,

and *Globites* de Haan, 1825, is considerable and I consider there is a clear case for suppression of these names under the Plenary Powers, as advocated by Dr. Arkell.

8. *Support received from Dr. Helmut Hölder (Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut der Universität Tübingen, Germany):* On 6th October 1951, Dr. Helmut Hölder (*Geologisch-Paläontologisches Institut der Universität Tübingen*) submitted a statement setting out his views on the applications relating to the names of Ammonites submitted by Dr. Arkell published in Triple-Part 6/8 of volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*. The following is an extract from Dr. Hölder's communication indicating his support for the grant of protection for the name *Phylloceras* Suess, 1865 :—

**Stellungnahme zu Arkell's Anträgen zur Nomenklatur jurassischer Ammoniten in "Bull. zool. Nomencl. 2, 1951"**

Den Anträgen Arkell's auf Suspension der Regeln sowie den vorgeschlagenen type species ist im Interesse einer Regelung der verworrenen Ammoniten-Nomenklatur und -Taxonomie im allgemeinen zuzustimmen. Besonders zu begrüßen ist der Schutz der Gattungsnamen *Arietites* und *Perisphinctes* gegenüber *Ammonites* und *Planites* sowie der Schutz von *Sphaeroceras* und *Phylloceras*.

9. *Support received from the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America:* On 9th April 1952 there was received a large number of letters commenting on various applications previously published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* from Professor G. Winston Sinclair (then of the *University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.*), Chairman of the Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America. Included among these was a letter, reporting that the members of the Joint Committee supported the present application by seven votes to two. The foregoing letter was dated 18th February 1952, and its late receipt was apparently due to a decision to defer the despatch to the Commission of the letters containing comments by members of the Joint Committee until all the letters in question had been prepared. By the date on which this letter was received the Prescribed Period of Public Notice had expired and the Voting Paper (V.P.(52)22) had been prepared. It was therefore impossible to include in that Voting



Paper a reference to Professor Sinclair's letter, but, when the Voting Paper was despatched, a supplementary sheet containing the particulars furnished by Professor Sinclair was issued to the Members of the Commission, who were thus placed in possession of the views of the members of the Joint Committee at the same time that they received the Voting Paper relating to the present case. The following is the text of Professor Sinclair's letter :—

The Joint Committee on Zoological Nomenclature for Paleontology in America has considered this subject and I wish to inform you that, being polled, they voted : To support the petition (seven) :—(1) Katherine V. W. Palmer ; (2) J. Marvin Weller ; (3) Bryan Patterson ; (4) A. Myra Keen ; (5) John B. Reeside, Jr. ; (6) Siemon W. Muller ; (7) Bobb Schaeffer. To oppose the petition (two) :—(1) Don L. Frizzell ; (2) John W. Wells.

### III.—THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

**10. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(52)22:** On 24th April 1952, a Voting Paper (V.P.(52)22) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, the proposal "relating to the suppression and relegation to the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names* of the five names specified in paragraph 1 (as recommended in paragraph 6) and the addition to the *Official Lists* of the names specified in Points (1) and (2) in paragraph 7 on pages 198 and 199 respectively in volume 2 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*" [i.e. in the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

**11. The Prescribed Voting Period:** As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the prescribed Voting Period closed on 24th July 1952.

12. *Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)22*: The state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(52)22 at the close of the prescribed Voting Period was as follows :—

- (a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following seventeen (17) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received)*:

Calman ; Hering ; Dymond ; Esaki ; do Amaral ;  
Hankó ; Bonnet ; Lemche ; Vokes ; Cabrera ; Pearson ;  
Bradley (J. C.) ; Boschma ; Stoll ; Mertens ; Riley ;  
Hemming ;

- (b) *Negative Votes*:

None ;

- (c) *Voting Paper V.P.(52)22 was not returned by one (1) Commissioner*:

Jaczewski.

13. *Declaration of Result of Vote*: On 25th July 1952, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(52)22, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 12 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

14. On 20th March 1954 Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(52)22.

15. The following are the original references for the names which appear in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*:—

*bifrons*, *Ammonites*, Bruguière, 1789, *Ency. méth.* (Vers) (1) : 40  
*Ellipsolithes* Montfort, 1808, *Conch. syst.* 1 : 86

*Globites* de Haan, 1825, *Specimen philosoph. exhib. Monogr. Ammonit. Goniatis*. : 37  
*heterophyllus*, *Ammonites*, Sowerby (J), 1820, *Min. Conch.* 3 : 119  
*Hildoceras* Hyatt, 1867, *Bull. Mus. comp. Zool.* 1(5) : 99  
*Orbulites* Lamarck, 1801, *Syst. Anim. sans Vertèbr.* : 100  
*Pelagus* Montfort, 1808, *Conch. syst.* 1 : 62  
*Phylloceras* Suess, 1865, *SitzBer. Akad. Wiss. Wien* 52(1) : 76  
*Planulites* Lamarck, 1801, *Syst. Anim. sans Vertèbr.* : 101

16. The following is the type selection for the genus *Hildoceras* Hyatt, 1867, referred to in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*: Buckman (S.), 1889, *Monogr. Inferior Oolite Ammonites* (Pal. Soc.) : 111

17. At the time of the adoption of the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*, the expression prescribed for the second portion of the binomen which constitutes the scientific name of a species was the expression "trivial name" and the *Official List* reserved for recording such names was styled the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*, the word "trivial" appearing also in the title of the *Official Index* reserved for recording rejected and invalid names of this category. Under a decision taken by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, the expression "specific name" was substituted for the expression "trivial name" and corresponding changes were made in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of such names (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 21). The changes in terminology so adopted have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

18. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

19. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Four (304) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twentieth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Four.

*Secretary to the International Commission  
on Zoological Nomenclature*

**FRANCIS HEMMING**